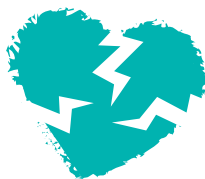


Love shouldn't make you feel afraid

Getting to know someone you like should be enjoyable, make you feel good and make you feel like you are valued.

You may find yourself with someone who says they care for you, but the way they treat you leaves you feeling uneasy or scared.

Love shouldn't make you feel like this.



Love and affection don't come with a price tag



You meet someone, you may be in a relationship with them, or they are supposed to care for you. You might find they want something in return later on.

They might persuade or expect you to do sexual things you don't want to do in return for presents, money, drugs, alcohol, somewhere to stay, or even just the promise of love and affection.

FACT

Sexual exploitation can happen to any child, anywhere.

It can happen to boys and girls.

It doesn't matter where you live, or what your parents or carers do for a living.

It doesn't matter what your race or religion is, or your sexuality.

People who exploit children come from all walks of life



Grooming is when someone convinces you or your family that they are a safe and trustworthy person so they can sexually exploit you.

They may become your friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or be friendly with your parents or carers.

Groomers can seem like your friend, offer you things you need or want, ask you to keep secrets and groom you in real life or online.

Who is on the other side of the conversation?

Sexual exploitation can start and stay online.



There are people who will use the internet to groom, trawling social media and gaming sites, looking for people to target and exploit.

Offenders might use a mix of flattery and insults



Exploiters are very clever, they may try to find a weakness to manipulate you, distancing you from your family, or giving you things that you might need.

Abusers may target young people at certain places

Usually in places where young people get together, although sexual exploitation can also happen between young people in social groups and with people you already know.



It's not OK to expect sex in return for anything

It's not OK for someone to expect sexual acts in return for food, alcohol or cigarettes, a place to stay, money or gifts, or even the promise of love and affection.



Keeping safe

If someone makes you feel unsafe, pressured or frightened, trust yourself and seek help.

Don't trust people you don't know, even if they seem friendly.

Make sure someone you trust always knows where you are.

Don't be tricked into doing things that are unsafe - it might seem fun at the time, but could be more dangerous than you think.

TELL SOMEONE



If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, dial 999.

If you're worried about the way someone is treating you, or someone else, **tell someone.** Call police on 101.

Visit www.tell-someone.org/gethelp for a list of organisations offering help and support.

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